

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Presently Amended) A method for constructing a wired-AND bus system,
2 comprising:
3 (a) constructing a plurality of wired-AND bus segments;
4 (b) connecting pairs of bus segments together with bus bridges wherein each
5 bus bridge has a bridge address and selectively forwards transactions and
6 commands from one bus segment to another;
7 (c) connecting master devices and slave devices to the bus segments,
8 wherein a slave device on a first bus segment has the same address as
9 another slave device on a second bus segment different from the first bus
10 segment; and
11 (d) sending a tunnel command from a bus master on the first bus segment,
12 the tunnel command containing data and a device address of the other
13 slave device as data, to a bridge address of a bus bridge connecting the
14 first and second bus segments whereupon the bridge receives the tunnel
15 command and extracts the slave device address and forwards the data to
16 the extracted slave device address on the second bus segment.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each bridge comprises an address
2 bitmap and wherein the bridge selectively forwards transactions based on
3 information in the address bitmap.

- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each bridge comprises a pair of range
2 registers wherein values in the range registers determine which commands will
3 be forwarded by the bridge.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises connecting the bus
2 segments into a tree hierarchy.
- 1 5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 (e) programming one bus master to enter information into the address
3 bitmaps and range registers of each bridge.
- 1 6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the bus segments are
2 connected into a tree hierarchy having a root level and the method comprises:
3 (f) locating the one bus master at the root level.
- 1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the bridges are bi-
2 directional bridges.
- 1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein each bi-directional bridge is comprised
2 of two unidirectional bridges, each having a bridge ID.
- 1 9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein each unidirectional bridge has a
2 different bridge ID.
10. (Canceled)
- 1 11. (Presently Amended) Apparatus for constructing a wired-AND bus system,
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of wired-AND bus segments;

4 bus bridges connecting pairs of bus segments together wherein each bus
5 bridge has a bridge address and selectively forwards transactions and
6 commands from one bus segment to another;

7 at least one master device and at least one slave device connected to the
8 bus segments, wherein a slave device on a first bus segment has the same
9 address as another slave device on a second bus segment different from the first
10 bus segment; and

11 means in a bus master on the first bus segment for sending a tunnel
12 command, the tunnel command containing data and a device address of the
13 other slave device as data, to a bridge address of a bus bridge connecting the
14 first and second bus segments whereupon the bridge receives the tunnel
15 command and extracts the slave device address and forwards the data to the
16 extracted slave device address on the second bus segment.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein each bridge comprises an address
2 bitmap and wherein the bridge selectively forwards transactions based on
3 information in the address bitmap.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein each bridge comprises a pair of
2 range registers wherein values in the range registers determine which
3 commands will be forwarded by the bridge.

1 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the bus bridges connect the bus
2 segments into a tree hierarchy.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a configuration host that
2 enters information into the address bitmaps and range registers of each bridge.

- 1 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the bus segments are connected
2 into a tree hierarchy having a root level and the configuration host is located at
3 the root level.
- 1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein at least some of the bridges are bi-
2 directional bridges.
- 1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein each bi-directional bridge is
2 comprised of two unidirectional bridges, each having a bridge ID.
- 1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each unidirectional bridge has a
2 different bridge ID.
- 1 20. (Canceled).
- 1 21. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a multi-segment wired-AND bus system
2 wherein a first bus segment is connected to a second bus segment with a bus
3 bridge in order to isolate faults, the method comprising:
4 (a) when the bus bridge is attempting to acquire the second bus segment and
5 the second bus segment is busy for a predetermined period of time;
6 attempting to cause any device connected to the second bus segment to
7 respond;
8 (b) if a device connected to the second bus segment responds within a
9 second predetermined time, resetting the second bus segment.
- 1 22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 further comprising:
2 (c) if no device connected to the second bus segment responds with the
3 second predetermined time, informing a bus master on the first bus
4 segment.

- 1 23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein step (c) comprises issuing a
2 negative acknowledgement to the bus master.
- 1 24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the second bus segment comprises
2 a clock line and a data line and step (a) comprises toggling the clock line.
- 1 25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein step (b) comprises issuing a
2 START/STOP command sequence.
- 1 26. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for constructing a multi-segment wired-AND bus system
2 wherein a first bus segment is connected to a second bus segment with a bus
3 bridge in order to isolate faults, the apparatus comprising:
4 means operable when the bus bridge is attempting to acquire the second
5 bus segment and the second bus segment is busy for a predetermined period of
6 time; for attempting to cause any device connected to the second bus segment to
7 respond;
8 means operable if a device connected to the second bus segment
9 responds within a second predetermined time, for resetting the second bus
10 segment.
- 1 27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising means operable if no
2 device connected to the second bus segment responds with the second
3 predetermined time, for informing a bus master on the first bus segment.
- 1 28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for informing a bus
2 master comprises means for issuing a negative acknowledgement to the bus
3 master.
- 1 29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the second bus segment
2 comprises a clock line and a data line and the means for attempting to cause any

3 device connected to the second bus segment to respond comprises means for
4 toggling the clock line.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for resetting the second bus segment comprises means for issuing a START/STOP command sequence.